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The hour was later changed to 8 A.M. It is to be noted that certain persistent discrepancies appear when the observations, after reduction to sea-level, are compared, the most noteworthy cases being those of stations which are more or less completely shut in by hills of considerable elevation. The result of this condition is to check somewhat the horizontal movement of the air, and to give too high a pressure during the morning. At the three stations where this topographic effect is most marked the excess of pressure averages about .02 inch at 8 A.M.

NOTE.

It is well known that the winter snowfall is a great help in lumbering operations in our northern forests, for it greatly facilitates the labor of hauling out the trees. In a recent article on the 'Forest School at Biltmore' (*Forestry and Irrigation*, November), Dr. Schenck notes, among the disadvantages of the Biltmore forest tracts, the lack of winter snows, which allow 'cheap sleighing to take the place of expensive wagoning.'

R. DEC. WARD.

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THE ASSOCIATION OF OFFICIAL AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTS.

THE twentieth annual meeting of the association was held at the Columbian University, Washington, D. C., on November 19, 20, 21, with an attendance of 150, the largest on record. A large part of the meeting was devoted to the reports of the referees and associate referees on the analysis of foods. Dr. William Frear, as chairman of the committee on pure food standards, reported that those on meats and the principal meat products, milk and its products, sugars and related substances, condiments (except vinegar), and cocoa products, were ready for adoption as official and the proclamation so declaring them was signed by Secretary Wilson on November 21. The circular containing these standards is now in press and will be ready for distribution in a short time.

Slight changes were made in the official methods for the analysis of sugars and insecticides and a new division of the work was created by a motion to appoint a referee on

drugs. A resolution was adopted requesting the Bureau of Standards through its chemist to participate in the work of the referees fixing standard methods of analysis. The committee on fertilizer legislation was instructed to prepare a bill for submission to Congress regulating interstate commerce in fertilizers and fertilizing materials.

The executive committee was given permission to call the meeting of the association next year at St. Louis and there is every probability that such action will be taken. The officers elected are as follows:

*President*—M. E. Jaffa, Berkeley, Cal.

*Vice-President*—C. L. Penny, Newark, Del.

*Secretary*—H. W. Wiley, Washington, D. C.

*Additional Members of the Executive Committee*—W. P. Headden, Fort Collins, Colo.; W. R. Perkins, Agricultural College, Mass.

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SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

MR. SHYAMAJI KRISHNAVARMA, of India, has offered \$5,000 to Oxford University to establish a lectureship in honor of Herbert Spencer to be known as the Spencer Lectureship.

THE prize for French contributions to science given by M. Osiris through the Paris Press Association has been divided between Mme. Curie and M. Branly. Mme. Curie receives 60,000 francs for her work on radium and M. Branly 40,000 francs for his work in connection with wireless telegraphy.

THE sixtieth birthday of Dr. Robert Koch was celebrated on December 11. A portrait bust was unveiled in the Institute for Infectious Diseases, Berlin, a museum for bacteriology was established and a *Festschrift* is in press. Dr. Koch expects to return from South Africa in March.

At the St. Louis meeting of the Astronomical and Astrophysical Society of America the following officers, including those who hold over, were elected for the ensuing year: *President*, Simon Newcomb; *First Vice-President*, George E. Hale; *Second Vice-President*, W. W. Campbell; *Secretary*, George C. Comstock; *Treasurer*, C. L. Doolittle; *Councilors*, Ormond Stone, W. S. Eichelberger, E. C. Pickering, R. S. Woodward.